news

TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE OF CANADA

Vol. 1 No. 1 July, 1955

INTRODUCTION

The Council of the Institute, in requesting the Editorial Committee to publish this News Bulletin, have recognised the need for a common medium of communication between members. The function of the News Bulletin will be to keep members informed of each other's activities and to publicise the actions of the Council and local Chapters.

It is hoped to carry correspondence and short articles on professional matters but it is not intended to include general articles on planning.

A publication programme for not more than ten issues per year is being prepared and local Chapters will be requested to accept responsibility for the major part of some of the issues.

JOINT PLANNING CONFERENCE

JOINT PLANNING CONFERENCE AT LONDON ONTARIO, JUNE 25th, 1955

The pleasant surroundings of the University of Western Ontario provided the setting for the joint meeting of approximately 125 delegates from the Michigan Chapter of the American Institute of Planners and the Central Ontario Chapter of the Town Planning Institute. The theme of the conference was:-

"The growing conflict of land uses in the Great Lakes Region"

Addresses of welcome were given by Colonel A.L.S. Nash of the Department of Planning and Development, Ontario, Alderman Norman A. Bradford of the London City Council and Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, and also Mrs. F.S. Albright of the London and Suburban Planning Board.

The morning and afternoon were taken up with panel discussions. The morning subject under the chairmanship of Mr. Donald F. Taylor was:-

"The impact of the St. Lawrence Seaway on Land Uses in the Great Lakes Region".

The four members of this panel and their subjects were:-

1. Mr. Stirling St. John, Jr.,
   Director, Port of Detroit Commission.

   "General Comments on the Seaway"

2. Mr. Paul Reid,
   Planning Analyst, Detroit Metropolitan Area Regional Planning Commission.

   "Planning for the Seaway - around Detroit"

3. Mr. H.J. Darling,
   Chief of the Economics Division, Department of Transport, Ottawa.

   "Some Economic Implications of the Seaway"

4. Dr. Edward G. Pleva,
   Head of the Department of Geography, University of Western Ontario.

   "Some Specific Research Problems in Great Lakes Planning"

The Afternoon Session discussed:-

"Techniques for the Control of Land Use - A comparison of Michigan and Ontario Practice"

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. Francis P. Bennett, the President of the Michigan Chapter of the American Institute of Planners, the following six panel members spoke on their respective topics.

1. Mr. T. Ledyard Blakeman,
   Director, Detroit Metropolitan Area Regional Planning Commission.

   "The Regional Setup"

2. Mr. Charles A. Blessing,
   Director, Detroit City Planning Commission.

   "The Large City Setup"

3. Mr. Murray V. Jones,
Director of Planning, Metropolitan Toronto Planning Board.

"Control Techniques in the Metropolitan Toronto Area"

4. Mr. Eric Baker,
Chairman of the Humber Valley Conservation Authority.

"Some Techniques for Land Use Control"

5. Mr. Russell Koenig,
Director of Planning, City of Saginaw, Michigan.

"The Medium City Setup"

6. Mr. Kenneth Hallenbeck,
Director, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority.

"The Authority Setup"

In both morning and afternoon the panel presentations were followed by questions and discussion from the floor.

The conference concluded with an interesting bus and car tour around the City of London and the surrounding Municipalities terminating at the Queen Elizabeth Park overlooking Lake Fanshawe where an excellent meal was served out of doors.

The success of the Conference was in no small part due to the hard work in preparation and organisation done by Mr. Allan J. Barker the Director of the London and Suburban Planning Board and his staff.

TOWN PLANNING FOR ENGINEERS

by George Muirhead of Kingston

Interest in the professional training of town planners has been largely concerned with the courses now being offered by the universities of McGill, Toronto, and British Columbia. Almost without exception, the limited number of graduates from these courses have entered full time careers in Town Planning. To the extent, therefore, that a small but increasing number of qualified persons are each year taking up positions in this important field, the courses may be considered successful.

Pre-occupation with the training of professional town planners should not, however, divert attention from other important areas of training in the art of planning. It is of advantage to professional planners and to the community at large to have persons in other professions who have had town planning training albeit of a less intensive nature. Recognition of this fact has led to the introduction of courses in town planning in widely different fields of endeavour with programmes of varying intensity.

One of the most successful of these programmes has been carried out in Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Under the direction of Dr. S.D. Lash, town planning is now a regular subject at Queen's for fourth year students in Engineering. Although in existence for only two years, the town planning course has become a firmly established feature of the fourth year curriculum.

According to Dr. Lash, the primary purpose of the course is to arouse interest in town planning and in this respect the experiment has succeeded better than originally hoped. The course may be said to have had its genesis when Dr. Lash took his sabbatical year of absence at London University. There he took the last year of the diploma course in town planning under the tutelage of Sir William Holford. On his return he pursuaded the faculty of Queen's to introduce town planning as a credit course in the Civil Engineering Curriculum.

An important adjunct of the course is the text "An Introduction to Town Planning" written by Dr. Lash. Although not a professional town planning text book in any sense, its clear enunciation of basic principles makes it an invaluable work for the beginner and a good refresher course for the experienced planner. In its 60 pages, the basic structure of towns the history of town planning and planning administration are discussed. One chapter is devoted to the appearance of towns.

The whole hearted acceptance of the Town Planning Course at Queen's both by students and faculty, indicates that there is a need for such courses in the carricula of allied professions. Through the personal efforts of Dr. Lash, the University of Queen's is making an important contribution to Town Planning in Canada.

OBITUARY

The late JOHN MACRAE KITCHEN

by Norman D. Wilson and A.V. Hall.

In the passing of John M. Kitchen, on May 16th last, the Town Planning Institute lost one of its most experienced and best known members.

Mr. Kitchen was born in Scotland sixty three years ago, and graduated from the Royal Technical College Glasgow, in 1912. He subsequently attended the Glasgow School of Art. He came to Canada during the first World War on the Staff of the Imperial Munitions Agency in Ottawa. At the close of the War, deciding to remain in Canada, he joined the permanent staff of the City of Ottawa, later becoming supervising Architect. He was soon brought in contact with Mr. Noulan Cauchon, then chairman and Planning Advisor to the City of Ottawa Planning Commission, and acted as his assistant in the preparation of the "Cauchon Plan" for the Capital Region, which was released in 1922. Following this he assisted Mr. Cauchon in the preparation of a zoning plan for Ottawa, and on various plans for street widenings and other street and intersection improvements, etc. Mr. Kitchen's Architectural training and his familiarity with the details of the building by-laws always ensured that only well documented proposals came to Council or the Ratepayers. On the death of Mr. Cauchon in 1935, Mr. Kitchen succeeded him as technical advisor to the Planning Commission.

In 1940, with the War in progress and City Planning at a standstill, Mr. Kitchen joined the Department of Munitions and Supplies, and filled various executive positions in that department, including that of Deputy Controller of Construction. He received the M.B.E. for this war-time services.

In 1945 with the resumption of work by M. Jacques Greber on the National Capital Plan, Mr. Kitchen with Mr. Edouard Fiset became his chosen associates in the development of the plan, as co-directors of the National Capital Planning Service, the organisation with which Mr. Kitchen was connected at the time of his death. In his monumental report, M. Greber refers to Mr. Kitchen's "sure knowledge of civic and planning problems".

Mr. Kitchen was a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada; a member of the Ontario Association of Architects; and a member since 1944 of the Registry Board of that Association as the representative of the Ontario Government.

Mr. Kitchen was elected to membership in the Town Planning Institute of Canada in January 1924, and immediately thereafter to the office of Secretary Treasurer, which office he held until the Institute became inactive in 1932. Even after this date, during the depression and second world war, Mr. Kitchen still acted for the then dormant Institute. For 22 years Mr. Kitchen never lost heart as to the future of the Institute, and annually out of the small balance of Institute Funds paid the fee necessary to keep the charter alive. He convinced successive Secretaries of State that it would be used again. The reconstituted nation-wide Institute is the result of that care and faith.

Mr. Kitchen was a founder member of the Council of the Community Planning Association of Canada. He was also active in the community and fraternal life of Ottawa and served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Ottawa Civic Hospital for some years. He was a member and a former reader of the First Church of Christ Scientist, Ottawa.

He is survived by his widow, the former Helen Halloran of Glasgow, four sisters and a brother in Scotland, and an uncle in Toronto. He was buried in Beechwood Cemetery, Ottawa.

SEPTEMBER 25th to 29th - 1955

Annual A.S.P.O. Planning Conference at the Sheraton Mt. Royal Hotel, Montreal.

The preliminary schedule of topics includes -

Can Metropolitan Government Work?
Is Zoning Wagging the Dog?
Urban Renewal
Planning in Small Towns
Planning Commissioners' Session
A Forum on Planning Education
(for students and recent graduates of U.S., British and Canadian Planning Schools)
The Churches in Community Planning
Traffic and Mass Transit Problems
A Subdivision Round Table
Suburban Development Problems
Regional Planning in the St. Lawrence Seaway Area
The Visual Design of Cities
Planning for Tomorrow's World

Further details may be obtained from the

American Society of Planning Officials,
1313 E. Sixtieth Street,
Chicago 37, Illinois.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

A conference for the study and discussion of large scale regional developments such as river valley projects, reclamation schemes and community development projects, will be held at:-

Bedford College, London, England.
September 29th to October 2nd, 1955.

It will be sponsored by:-

Institute of Colonial Studies, Oxford.
Institute of Social Anthropology, Oxford.
Institute of Education, London.
King's College, London.
London School of Economics.
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.
University College, London.
The University of Liverpool.
The University of North Carolina U.S.A.

The purpose of the Conference is summarised as follows:-

1. To provide a meeting place for those interested in regional planning and development.

2. To review several regional planning and development projects, studying methods of approach and organisation.

3. To study problems of co-ordination and teamwork.

4. To consider the formation of an association to further these aims.

5. To establish a permanent centre for research and documentation.

PARTICIPATION

Participation in the conference is open to those with experience in various fields of development planning, post-graduate students and representatives from interested organisations and industries.

Large scale development projects meet with similar problems all over the world. Though this first conference will deal mainly with regional development projects in the Commonwealth, it should be of equal interest to delegates from other countries, and the Committee expects wide international participation.

Registration Fee is $9 and details of accommodation, agenda etc. can be obtained from:-

Mr. Norman J. Hart,
45 Northcote Ave.,
London, W.5,
England.

POSITIONS VACANT

Federal District Commission

Applications will be received by the Federal District Commission, Ottawa for the position of Director of Planning. The duties of this position will be to supervise the planning staff dealing with the National Capital District to attend meetings of consultation with all bodies responsible for phases of this planning.

Applicants should be architects, engineers or landscape architects, who have full professional qualifications in their respective professions and who have also had extensive experience in the field of Community Planning. Apply in writing on or before August 1st, 1955, to the undersigned stating salary expected. Prior to final selection, a personal interview will be arranged with those deemed suitable on the basis of the applications.

Mr. H.R. Cram,
Assistant General Manager and Secretary,
Federal District Commission,
291 Carling Avenue,
Ottawa, Ontario.

CITY OF HAMILTON

The City of Hamilton requires an assistant to the Planning Commissioner. Applicants with previous experience in City Planning are required who must be graduates of a recognised university and possess a degree in one of the following subjects:- City Planning, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Civil Engineering or other related fields. Salary $5,000 - $6,500 per annum. Starting salary will be commensurate with previous experience. Apply stating all particulars to:-

The Personnel Department,
City Hall,
Hamilton, Ontario.

TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE OF CANADA

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Secretary	R. NORMAN DRYDEN, 85 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario.

Material for publication in the NEWS should be forwarded to:-

A.H. Roberts,
10 Rosehill Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario.